

35/14/12

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER


upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1951



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29443805>

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Health Committee

Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. BROWN

Vice-Chairman :

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LADY D. SHEPPERSON

County Aldermen :

MRS. P. A. ALLEN
M. J. ALLEN
C. G. ARGLES
A. CRANE

E. H. J. DUBERLY
F. L. FARLEY
F. W. FIGG

County Councillors :

MRS. M. K. ABRAHAMS
W. P. ANDERSON
B. S. BYE
W. F. CANNON
C. H. CHANDLER
C. M. J. COOTE
G. A. EARL
MRS. S. EVANS
W. H. GOTOBED

E. G. HOLMES
T. E. R. PARSONS
H. J. POULTER
THE COUNTESS OF SANDWICH
F. C. SLAUGHTER
REVD. M. H. WELLS
H. WICKS
C. J. WILES

Co-opted Members :

MRS. D. R. ALLAN
MRS. V. E. COMPTON
DR. E. R. DANSIE
MRS. D. J. DITCHBURN
MISS G. M. EVANS
LADY HINCHINGBROOKE

MRS. MAGEE
MRS. D. L. PLEDGER
A. E. PRIESTLEY
MRS. V. J. STAFFURTH
DR. A. E. STAFFURTH
MISS E. TILLARD

WHOLETIME STAFF

County Medical Officer of Health :

D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers :

MARY M. MARKHAM, M.B., CH.B., D.T.M., D.P.H.

AUDREY B. MORRISON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

FRANCIS D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

LILIAN E. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time).

Senior Dental Officer :

W. R. S. ROBERTSON, L.D.S., R.C.S.(ENG.)

Inspector under Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders :

CAPTAIN W. K. TOWNSON, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time)

Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act :

A. E. JAMES

Chief Ambulance Officer :

A. EASTON

Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Health Visitor :

MISS A. GARNER

Orthopædic Physiotherapist :

MISS B. W. PARSONS

Home Help Organiser:

MRS. B. A. MEADOWS

Welfare Officer for the Care of the Unmarried Mother:

MISS E. W. K. HARRIS

Authorised Officer for Mental Health:

J. B. ASHWELL

Deputy Authorised Officer for Mental Health:

J. R. MASH

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives:

MISS O. K. IVIMEY

Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives:

MISS A. BROWN (Resigned 30th September, 1951)

MISS L. E. ROBERTS (Commenced 3rd December, 1951)

Health Visitors:

MRS. E. C. ARCHER

MISS O. EVANS

MISS J. BASSFORD

MISS H. HARDIN

MISS I. L. BAYS

MISS M. B. LOVATT

MISS A. BOYD

MISS E. PELBROUGH

MRS. D. M. FORDHAM (Resigned 31st October, 1951)

MISS O. M. HOLLOWAY (Commenced 27th December, 1951)

Chief Clerk:

R. E. KILLICK

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of Huntingdonshire for the year 1951.

Influenza, fortunately of a mild type, was very prevalent during the months of February and March.

Excessively heavy rainfall for the first three months of the year culminated in the April floods of 1951.

During the year steady progress has been made in consolidating the services provided by this Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, but no major development has occurred.

One pleasing feature of the report is the continuing steady decline in the number of illegitimate births and the marked improvement in the mortality rate for these infants.

The conversion into a clinic of the newly acquired building at Ramsey was completed during the year and formally opened in September. This building, formerly an Isolation Hospital, situated in the centre of a new housing estate provides facilities and amenities that were lacking in the premises in which the clinics were previously held.

The number of confinements taking place in Maternity Homes or Hospitals continues to increase. Whereas in 1947 only twenty-three per cent. of all births took place in institutions the comparative figure for 1951 is no less than sixty-two per cent.

The year under review is the fourth successive year in which no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the County, but, however pleasing this may be, I would draw attention to the immunisation state as set out on page 26. This can by no means be regarded either with complacency or satisfaction and the same remark applies to the present vaccination state in the County.

Each year the amount of material to be considered in framing this report grows larger, the task of reading it more onerous, and the selection and presentation of the significant facts in a readily assimilable form more and more difficult. A report of this nature demands and merits a large expenditure of time, much longer than can be found in normal office hours.

It is with pleasure that I record my thanks to the Voluntary Helpers at the Infant Welfare Centres for their valuable assistance throughout the year.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their assistance and support, and to place on record my appreciation of the excellent work of my staff throughout the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

County Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	233,985
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1951)							69,790

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTHS—					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	590	515	1,105
Illegitimate		...	...	...	31	34	65
Total Births	...	...	...	...	621	549	1,170
Birth rate per 1,000 population				...	...	...	16.76
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births				...	...	...	21.7
DEATHS—							
Deaths from all causes			...	...	...	...	811
Death rate (Crude) in—							
Urban Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.98
Rural Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.35
County of Huntingdon		...	...	...	...	...	11.62
England and Wales		...	...	...	...	...	12.5
Maternal Deaths—							
From pregnancy, childbirth, abortion				...	...		2
Infant Deaths—							
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.05
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.4

Population

The mid-1951 population of the County as estimated by the Registrar-General numbers 69,790, which shows an increase of 2,136 on the estimated population for the previous year.

The natural increase (excess of live births over deaths) numbered 359. The comparative figures for previous years are as follows : 1950, 362 ; 1949, 373 ; and 1948, 483 ; from which it will be seen that there is a steady decline in the natural increase.

Births

The Birth Rate for 1951 was 16.76 per thousand of the estimated population as compared with 16.57 for 1950. This shows a slight increase in the Birth Rate for the County, a decrease having been shown in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950. The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

During 1951 the number of still births was 26, giving a still birth rate of 21.7. This shows a sharp increase over the still birth rate of 16.06 per 1,000 total births in 1950, although the figure remains well below 25.5 per 1,000 total births for 1949. All cases of still birth are carefully investigated in order to determine the causes of this wastage of child life.

Illegitimate births numbered 65 or 5.5 per cent. of the total number of live births. This shows a considerable decrease on the figure of 75 or 6.6 per cent. for 1950. The decline in the illegitimate birth rate evident in the years following 1945, when the peak incidence was reached, continues.

Deaths

During 1951 a total of 811 deaths was recorded in the County. This gave a Death Rate of 11.6 per thousand of the population compared with 11.3 in 1950. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

The table showing Deaths from all Causes occurring in all districts in the County is set out on pages 10 – 11. In 1951 no fewer than 248 deaths were attributable to some form of disease of the heart, while 119 deaths were due to different types of malignant disease. Deaths due to disease of the respiratory system, excluding pulmonary tuberculosis, numbered 90, an increase of 19 over the corresponding figure for 1950.

It is good to record that no deaths were ascribed to Poliomyelitis in 1951 and that yet a further year has passed without a death in the County being attributable to Diphtheria. Measles, however, caused one death in the adolescent-adult age group. Whooping Cough was responsible for the death of a child under 1 year old, while a child in the age group 1—5 years died from a meningococcal infection.

The number of deaths occurring as a result of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has in the past year risen to 17 as compared with 12 in 1950 and 1949. Since 1935 there has been a gradual, if somewhat irregular, decrease in the number of deaths in the County due to pulmonary tuberculosis. The increase shown in 1951 may well be simply a temporary rise.

Although one death occurred in 1950 as a result of the non-respiratory type of tuberculosis I am happy to report that no deaths from this disease occurred in 1951.

Of the total 811 deaths occurring in the County, 31 were attributable to accidents of all forms, including 16 associated with motor vehicles. These deaths amount to 3.82% of all the deaths that occurred as compared with 3.72% in 1950. However small an increase this may appear to be it is to be deprecated. Deaths on the road and indeed deaths from any type of accident are preventable. It seems ironical that no fewer than 6 children under 15 years died last year within the County as the result of accident, while in the same age group only 2 deaths occurred as the result of common notifiable diseases. The campaign for Road Safety and the prevention of accidents in the home must be continued with increased vigour.

The Infant Mortality Rate for 1951 was 26.4 per 1,000 live births showing an increase over the corresponding rate of 20.5 for 1950. Nevertheless the figure for 1951 compares favourably with the corresponding rate of 29.6 for England and Wales.

Marked improvement is shown in the mortality rate for illegitimate babies, no deaths having occurred in a total of 65 illegitimate live births notified.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts and of England and Wales for the past five years :—

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Urban Districts ...	19.8	17.2	16.3	15.4	16.7	11.4	11.1	12.2	11.5	12.0
Rural Districts ...	21.5	18.7	19.1	17.4	16.8	13.2	10.0	11.9	11.2	11.3
County of Huntingdon	20.7	18.1	17.8	16.6	16.8	12.3	10.5	12.0	11.3	11.6
England and Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE							
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—	—	7	6	4	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	5
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	—	—	—	1	12	3	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	3	11	24	28
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	—	—	—	—	1	21	37	61
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	—	23	30	26
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	6
20. Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	2	9	32	112
21. Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	17
22. Influenza	—	1	1	1	1	5	5	11
23. Pneumonia	3	1	—	1	3	3	3	5
24. Bronchitis	1	—	—	1	1	6	8	21
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	7
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ..	15	1	2	3	4	10	16	45
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	2	—	3	4	2	2	3
34. All Other Accidents	3	—	1	—	4	1	1	5
35. Suicide	—	—	—	1	—	7	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	31	6	5	14	38	142	207	368

DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1951

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon U.D.	Godmanchester U.D.	St. Ives U.D.	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton U.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
17	1	—	—	1	3	4	3	1	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16	1	1	1	2	—	3	1	3	2	2
11	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	5	1	—
20	1	1	2	—	2	2	4	3	2	3
4	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
66	6	3	7	5	6	3	7	17	7	5
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
6	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—
120	13	4	10	12	4	7	22	14	17	17
79	6	2	4	4	5	11	7	22	7	11
14	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	4	2	2
155	10	5	14	14	16	19	16	22	16	23
27	1	1	1	1	4	3	4	7	4	1
25	1	3	—	4	1	1	4	4	5	2
19	2	—	1	—	3	1	2	4	3	3
38	2	1	2	4	5	2	5	7	6	4
8	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	2
8	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1
3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
17	3	1	2	2	1	—	4	3	1	—
7	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	1	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
6	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1
96	10	1	5	12	9	9	10	11	12	17
16	—	1	—	—	2	1	4	2	3	3
15	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	3	1	4
8	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	2	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
811	70	24	52	61	75	80	106	140	99	104

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1951

Urban and Rural Districts

DISTRICT	Area in acres	Persons per acre	Population	Live Births				Deaths				Deaths under 1 year of age		Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Birth Rate	No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Death Rate	No.	Rate per 1,000 reg'd. births		
URBAN—															
Huntingdon Borough ..	2151	2.4	5220	86	16.5	0.95	15.7	70	13.5	0.87	11.7	3	34.9	0.19	0.19
Godmanchester Borough ..	4907	0.5	2487	31	12.5	0.98	12.2	24	9.6	0.89	8.5	—	—	—	—
St. Ives Borough ..	2326	1.3	3129	51	16.3	1.03	16.8	52	16.6	0.82	13.6	1	19.6	—	—
St. Neots Urban ..	1390	3.4	4810	61	12.7	1.05	13.3	61	12.7	0.86	10.9	—	—	0.21	0.21
Ramsey Urban..	15980	0.4	5733	112	19.5	1.05	20.5	75	13.1	0.97	12.7	7	62.5	0.52	0.52
Old Fletton Urban ..	3029	2.9	8841	165	18.7	1.06	19.8	80	9.0	1.07	9.6	6	36.4	0.45	0.45
Total for Urban Districts	29783		30220	506	16.7	1.02	17.0	362	12.0	0.93	11.2	17	33.6	0.30	0.30
RURAL—															
Huntingdon ..	69937	0.1	10350	185	17.9	1.22	21.8	106	10.2	1.01	10.3	3	16.2	0.20	0.20
St. Ives ..	45911	0.3	12650	201	16.7	1.08	18.0	140	11.1	0.92	10.2	3	14.4	0.08	0.08
St. Neots ..	52559	0.1	7838	131	16.7	1.17	19.5	99	12.6	0.80	10.1	3	22.9	0.38	0.38
Norman Cross ..	35795	0.2	8732	147	16.8	0.99	16.6	104	11.9	1.05	12.5	5	34.0	0.11	0.11
Totals for Rural Districts	204202		39570	664	16.8	1.10	18.5	449	11.3	0.94	10.6	14	21.1	0.20	0.20
Administrative County	233985		69790	1170	16.8	1.07	17.9	811	11.6	0.93	10.8	31	26.5	0.24	0.24
England and Wales ..					15.5				12.5				29.6		0.31

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(SECTION 22)

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

Ante-natal and post-natal care arrangements remain unaltered. The ante-natal centre gives much scope for the teaching of improved mothercraft and health education. Arrangements for the carrying out of this important function must take first place as soon as the nursing staff is working at full establishment.

Fewer expectant mothers wish to be confined at home and more institutional confinements are taking place. Of the domiciliary confinements the increase in the number calling for the services of the general practitioner obstetrician under Part IV of the National Health Service Act is maintained.

Post-natal examinations are usually carried out six weeks after the confinement. These examinations constitute an important part of preventive medicine.

Examinations by general practitioner obstetricians of cases undertaken by midwives is as follows :—

Ante-Natal examinations	...	...	228
Post-Natal examinations	...	...	121

Infant Welfare Centres

During the year 1951 the attendances of mothers and children at Bythorn Clinic were so low as to warrant closure of the Clinic. By re-routing transport which normally conveys mothers and children to Kimbolton and Spaldwick Clinics it was possible to convey to these Centres all the mothers and children who previously attended the Bythorn Centre. The final session was held at Bythorn Clinic on July 23rd, 1951.

There now remain 18 centres operated by the County Council and 3 centres provided by Voluntary Organisations.

One of these Voluntary Organisations operates on an agency basis for the Local Health Authority, the other two Voluntary Organisations are directly connected with Royal Air Force Stations and make provision solely for Service families.

In all, 40 infant welfare sessions are held within the County every month.

During the year the total attendances at the Infant Welfare centres numbered 13,239, showing an increase of 584 over the total number in 1950.

Children under the age of 1 year made 7,303 attendances, while 5,936 attendances were made by children over 1 year. It is gratifying to note that there has been an increase in the number of toddlers attending the centres. So frequently mothers cease to seek advice after their children have reached the age of two years. In reality more defects are discovered and more scope for health education is given during the all important pre-school years than is commonly supposed.

The best assurance that a mother can have that her child will remain free from Diphtheria during the most dangerous years of school life is to ensure that the child receives a reinforcing dose of Diphtheria Prophylactic immediately prior to commencing school. What better opportunity is there of ensuring that this reinforcing injection is given than by her attendance at an Infant Welfare Centre where immunisation is regularly carried out.

It is with gratitude that I record here the excellent work carried out by Voluntary Workers in almost every Centre. Without their energetic contributions to the work and without their co-operation a considerable and trying burden would be laid on the shoulders of the full-time staff.

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres

<i>County Centres</i>		<i>1st Visits</i>	<i>Subsequent</i>	<i>1st Visits</i>	<i>Subsequent</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>0-1 year</i>	<i>0-1 year</i>	<i>1-5 years</i>	<i>1-5 years</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Alconbury	...	22	142	—	113	277
Brampton	...	19	110	6	190	325
Buckden	...	15	61	2	177	255
Bythorn	...	1	9	1	17	28
Elton	...	36	139	6	154	335
Fenstanton	...	13	77	8	147	245
Great Gransden		9	65	4	101	179
Great Staughton		14	64	7	97	182
Huntingdon	...	95	1107	12	802	2016
Kimbolton	...	26	99	8	228	361
Ramsey	...	48	321	19	223	611
St. Ives	...	75	627	24	668	1394
St. Neots	...	86	913	13	1060	2072
Sawtry	...	24	107	2	169	302
Somersham	...	15	91	8	140	254
Spaldwick	...	14	90	10	113	227
Warboys	...	37	175	12	138	362
Woodwalton	...	10	49	7	79	145
Yaxley	...	33	105	8	176	322
<i>Voluntary Centres</i>						
Old Fletton	...	102	1604	14	558	2278
Wyton Aerodrome		38	324	7	255	624
Upwood Aerodrome		23	269	13	140	445
<hr/>						
<i>Total Number of</i>						
<i>Attendances at all</i>						
<i>Centres</i>	...	755	6548	191	5745	13239

Premature Infants

The Local Health Authority is notified of all babies having a birth weight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or under. During the year 1951 notifications were as follows :—

No. of Premature infants notified	...	...	62
No. of Premature infants born at home	...	...	11
No. of Premature infants born in hospital	...	...	51

Prematurity remains the chief cause of neonatal death. Details are obtained in respect of every premature birth with the possibility that the information obtained may throw some light on the cause or causes of this serious loss of child life.

Care of premature babies in the home continues as in previous years and special equipment for the care of premature babies, e.g. portable cots and specialised oxygen units, are placed at convenient centres within the County.

The following table shows that of the 11 premature babies born at home during 1951 only 1 death occurred compared with 2 in 1950.

Weight in lbs. oz.	Premature infants born alive at home					
	Trans- ferred to Hospital	Nursed entirely at home				TOTAL
		Died in first 24 hours	Died on 2nd to 7th day	Died on 8th to 28th day	Sur- vived 28 days	
2 lbs. 3 oz. or less	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 2 lbs. 3 oz. up to and in- cluding 3 lbs. 4 ozs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 3 lbs. 4 ozs. up to and in- cluding 4 lbs. 6 ozs.	2	—	—	—	1	3
Over 4 lbs. 6 ozs. up to and in- cluding 4 lbs. 15 ozs.	1	1	—	—	1	3
Over 4 lbs. 15 oz. up to and in- cluding 5 lbs. 8 ozs.	—	—	—	—	5	5
TOTALS	3	1	—	—	7	11

Dental Treatment

The Senior Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“ The number of expectant and nursing mothers applying for dental treatment continues to decrease. It is very gratifying to note that those accepting treatment are in better dental health than prior to the introduction of the National Health Service. In Huntingdonshire I have not found the oral sepsis or the urgent cases of pain which I did during the war period. To-day many mothers have been in H.M. Forces and have received very good conservative treatment during their service.

“ The expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children are still given priority treatment at the Health Clinics at Huntingdon, Fletton, Ramsey, St. Ives and St. Neots. It will be seen from the table of dental work that the mothers applying for treatment has decreased from 59 examined in 1950, to 33 in 1951.

“ Pre-school examinations remain about the same, 30 in 1950 and 29 in 1951.”

(a) Number provided with dental care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers..	33	33	31	25
Children under five.. ..	29	23	23	11

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Com-plete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	35	17	3	37	12	—	30	—	1	5
Children under five ..	21	16	—	4	—	—	12	—	—	—

Maternity Outfits

The issue of maternity outfits has continued, as in former years, to all expectant mothers having their confinements at home. These are obtainable either from District Nurse-Midwives or at Ante-Natal Clinics throughout the County. During 1951, 499 outfits were issued.

Maternity Beds.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of Births</i>	<i>Births in Maternity Homes or Hospitals</i>	<i>Percentage of Institutional Births</i>
1947	1,271	299	23
1948	1,148	347	30
1949	1,144	532	47
1950	1,121	652	58
1951	1,170	728	62

As will be seen from the above table there has been since 1947 a dramatic increase in the number of confinements taking place in institutions (Maternity Homes and Hospitals).

Some of these institutional confinements are necessitated by reason of some abnormal medical or surgical condition, others on account of some social problem or unsatisfactory housing conditions, while others simply for the reason that they prefer to have their confinement in a Maternity Home rather than have it in their own home. Undoubtedly those in this latter category are influenced to no small extent by economic factors.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children

The following is a summary of work undertaken by the County Council Welfare Worker for the Care of the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

Ante-Natal Arrangements—

No. applications for confinement at Hospital or in own home	13
No. admitted to Mother and Baby Homes—	
Diocesan Home, Cambridge (per Hunts C.C.)	8
Chelmsford Diocesan Maternity Home (1 paying for self)	2
Lincoln Diocesan Maternity Home (paying for self)	1
	— 11
No. referred to a Worker outside the County ...	1

Post-Natal Arrangements—

No. returning home with baby	11
No. going into domestic service with child	2
No. helping to support child in a Nursery	2
No. marrying father of child	6
No. of Private Agreements	2
No. placing child for adoption	6

General Welfare—

Matrimonial problems	4
Adoption enquiries	4
Concerning a putative father and payment	1

New Cases—

Care of unmarried mother and her child	31
General	9
	— 40
After-Care of previous Cases	27
	—
Total No. during the year	67
	—

Ophthalmic Work

The following table summarises the ophthalmic work undertaken :—

	<i>Huntingdon</i>	<i>Old Fletton</i>
Number of new cases	19	2
Number of old cases	50	10
Number of attendances	70	12
Total number of cases in which spectacles were prescribed ...	13	3

Orthopædic

Orthopædic Clinics, at which a Consultant of the Regional Hospital Board attends, are held at Huntingdon and Peterborough. Children under school age discovered to have orthopædic defects are referred to these clinics.

The following tables give particulars of cases dealt with both at the Surgeons Clinics and the Care and After-Care Centres during the year.

ATTENDANCES AT SURGEONS CLINICS, 1951

CLINIC	No. of Clinics held	New cases seen	ATTENDANCES					
			S.E.	P.E.	M. & C.W.	T.B.	P.H.	Total
HUNTINGDON	21	126	59	352	150	28	40	629
PETERBOROUGH	10	10	3	70	8	6	5	92
TOTAL ...	31	136	62	422	158	34	45	721

NOTE.—S.E.—Secondary Education; P.E.—Primary Education; M. & C.W.—Pre-school cases; T.B.—Tuberculosis cases; P.H.—Other Adults.

ATTENDANCES AT CARE AND AFTER-CARE CENTRES, 1951

CLINIC	No. of Clinics held	ATTENDANCES					
		S.E.	P.E.	M. & C.W.	T.B.	P.H.	Total
HUNTINGDON ...	18	41	272	—	—	—	313
FLETTON ...	17	12	182	—	—	—	194
RAMSEY ...	15	2	137	—	—	—	139
ST. IVES ...	17	1	98	—	—	—	99
ST. NEOTS ...	15	—	61	—	—	—	61
TOTAL	82	56	750	—	—	—	806
HOME VISITS BY SISTER		28	384	72	66	90	640

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

(Sections 23 and 25)

The combined midwifery and home nursing service which has operated in this county since the National Health Service became operative remains unchanged. There are indications, however, that the arrangement of the nursing districts within the County must shortly be reviewed.

Midwives' Act, 1902

42 Midwives notified their intention to practise midwifery in the County. Of these 11 were employed in Institutions and 26 were District Nurse-Midwives employed by the County Council.

At the end of the year 24 District Nurse-Midwives were employed. There were 3 vacancies.

At the close of the year 20 District Nurse-Midwives on the staff were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia.

The following table summarises the work carried out :—

Number of cases attended as Midwives	...	...	233
Number of cases attended as Maternity Nurse	...	...	191
Number of Midwifery cases in which medical aid was called in by Midwife	...	...	59
Number of attendances—Midwifery cases	...	...	4163
Number of attendances—Maternity cases	...	...	3247
Number of General Nursing attendances	...	...	24971
Number of other attendances	...	...	4081
Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—			
When acting as a midwife	...	...	143
When acting as a maternity nurse	...	...	62
Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—			
When acting as a midwife	...	...	44
When acting as a maternity nurse	...	...	46

During the preceding year arrangements were made for a Consultant in Obstetrics to give the necessary instruction to the Midwives in this County in the properties and use of Pethidine Hydrochloride.

On the completion of this instruction all midwives who wished to avail themselves of this opportunity to administer this drug in cases where it was required were supplied with a poison register, cupboard and necessary supply of the drug in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1950.

During 1951 the drug was administered in 44 cases.

Great care was taken to point out to the midwives that the administration of Pethidine Hydrochloride was complementary to the administration of gas and air and not a substitution for it. The proper administration of gas and air and pethidine go a long way towards the elimination of the pain of childbirth.

HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)

As in former years the health visiting throughout the County continued to be undertaken by members of the staff holding combined appointments of Health Visitor/School Nurse, their time being equally apportioned to the two sets of duties.

The value of the Health Visitor's work to the community cannot be over-estimated.

The present members of the staff are already fully occupied so that the expansion and extension of this service as envisaged under the National Health Service Act must unfortunately await such times as the establishment of Health Visitors is brought up to full strength.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by Health Visitors :—

<i>Children under 1 year of age</i>		<i>Children between the ages of 1 and 5</i>	
First visits	Total visits	First visits	Total visits
849	7597	529	10956

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Section 26)

Vaccination

The arrangements made under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, enable the general public to have vaccination carried out by their own doctors.

Unfortunately, the vaccination state throughout the whole country continues to fall, and in this Huntingdonshire is no exception.

Every effort must be made to ensure that all infants are vaccinated against Smallpox during the first year, preferably in the first six months of life. Some authorities claim that the ideal time for vaccination is coincidental with the post-natal examination of the mother, namely when the infant is six weeks old.

I should like to comment here on the example set by the families of H.M. Service men in showing a high vaccination rate among their children.

While advising parents on health matters in the Infant Welfare Clinics and during home visits members of the Health Service do everything within their power to encourage vaccination of the child at an early stage.

During the year ended 31st December, 1951, the number of persons vaccinated was as follows :—

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccinated	401	20	23	22	52	518
Number re-vaccinated	—	1	5	31	155	192

Diphtheria Immunisation

The campaign to encourage the protection by immunisation of every child in the County against Diphtheria continues. Although no cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the County during the past four years there is no room for complacency. Only by ensuring that at least 75% of the child population in a community is protected against the disease can we hope to eliminate it.

I am happy to report that the number of children given a secondary or reinforcing injection was 2,045 in 1951 compared with 647 in 1950.

During the year the number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation was as follows :—

Children under 5 years ...	...	...	...	767
Children 5—14 years ...	...	...	...	202
				<hr/> 969
Total No. of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection ...	...	...	...	2045

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF
IMMUNISATION AT ANY TIME UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1951**

Age at 31.12.51 i.e., Born in year	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5-9 1942- 1946	10-14 1937- 1941	Total under 15 immunised
DISTRICT—								
Huntingdon Urban ..	5	50	49	64	76	269	268	781
Huntingdon Rural ..	3	112	101	110	112	470	424	1332
St. Neots Urban ..	—	52	49	70	63	274	239	747
St. Neots Rural ..	5	66	87	83	101	350	285	977
St. Ives Urban ..	4	28	44	41	42	174	194	527
St. Ives Rural ..	5	104	132	137	155	688	502	1723
Norman Cross Rural ..	4	40	71	65	96	440	423	1139
Old Fletton Urban ..	5	50	72	87	106	473	432	1225
Ramsey Urban ..	4	54	49	76	76	286	366	911
Godmanchester Borough ..	—	28	39	40	45	166	144	462
TOTALS ..	35	584	693	773	872	3590	3277	9824

AMBULANCE (Section 20)

The following information relates to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year 1951.

Statistics

		<i>No. of Vehicles at Dec.,</i>				
		1951	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Miles</i>	
DIRECTLY PROVIDED—						
Ambulances	(Huntingdon) ...	3	1461	3693 (478)		57921
Sitting Cars	„ ...	3	1404	5497 (51)		83870
AGENCY SERVICES—						
Ambulances	(including Peterborough) ...	6	1003	1981 (298)		27405
Sitting Cars	(Peterborough only) ...	3	1527	3154 (8)		25289
SUPPLEMENTARY—						
Hospital Car Service	... ..	—	319	846 (—)		19590
		15	5714	15171 (835)		214075

(The figures in parenthesis indicate emergency calls)

During the year the Ministry of Health issued a standard form for reporting Ambulance Statistics with a view to obtaining a better appreciation of costs; the new basis has been used in compiling the above statistics and comparison with previous years is, therefore, not helpful except so far as “mileages” is concerned.

The call on the Service continues to rise despite the forecast in my last report that the peak had been reached: the service, in fact, undertook 415 more journeys and travelled 14,481 more miles.

Establishment

There has been no change in Establishment during the year.

Vehicles

In consequence of the excessive mileage run the two saloon sitting cars were disposed of and in their place two “Hire Car” type vehicles were purchased. These vehicles are giving good service and would seem to be the answer to the Sitting Case Car problems of capacity combined with economy.

During the year the old Austin Ambulance was transferred to the Youth Committee.

The other vehicles are beginning to show signs of the continuous running and the need for spare vehicles is becoming more apparent, if only to allow for adequate servicing. Both the Austin Ambulances have been fitted with new engines and may be said to be mechanically sound, but the body-work is deteriorating quickly; the oldest vehicle now on the run (Bedford BEW 983) has also had a new engine and has been painted externally.

Call on the Service

The Ministry of Health has again drawn attention to the need for control in the use of the Service and has issued a circular to Practitioners, Hospitals and those with authority to call the Service. Doctors, generally, show an appreciation of the need for economy in calling the service, but Hospitals do not have the same regard for the fact that medical need only should be the guiding factor when ordering ambulance service transport.

More adequate public transport would solve many operational problems and the need for publicity in connection with the repayment of fares by the National Assistance Board would, it is thought, considerably assist in eliminating those journeys taken not strictly in accordance with medical need. This Authority has taken a broad view of its responsibilities and considered the health and welfare of the patient to be the guiding factor rather than a rigid interpretation of the Regulation.

Agency Services

The manning of the Agencies at St. Ives and Ramsey is far from satisfactory; the commitments in these areas is such that the ambulances could be engaged almost whole-time throughout the day if drivers were available. The difficulty in finding drivers able to give such extensive part-time service is appreciated and alternative arrangements may have to be considered in the near future.

The Hospital Car Service continues to render valuable service and increased its work during the year; the number of drivers able to serve is, however, still small.

During the year there was a serious train fire and a commendation for the work of the Ambulance Service has been received from the Railway Executive.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (Section 28)

Tuberculosis

Chest Clinic sessions continue to be held in the Out-Patients Department at the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and at Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough, and wherever possible arrangements are made for patients to be examined both clinically and radiologically at one and the same visit. Unnecessary loss of working time is thus avoided, which is of considerable importance particularly when dealing with a rural population dependant upon restricted public transport services.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor is in attendance at all clinic sessions at Huntingdon and those sessions at Peterborough when Huntingdonshire cases are being examined, and is thus enabled to follow the progress of the patients. She also pays regular home visits and makes the necessary arrangements in connection with diversional, and where possible, occupational therapy.

The greatest co-operation has been received from Local District Councils in the re-housing of the tuberculous patient where environmental conditions warrant it, but much still remains to be done in this respect.

Open Air Shelters are provided in suitable cases.

Convalescent patients are encouraged to avail themselves of rehabilitation and occupational re-training facilities at Papworth or through the Divisional Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour.

The regular routine examination of contacts is strenuously pursued. In rural communities this is by no means easy but nevertheless of prime importance, as indicated by the fact that of the new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified no less than 20% were the result of contact examination.

During the first quarter of the year a survey of school children aged 10 years and upwards attending schools in the north, east and central areas of Huntingdonshire was undertaken by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit. Members of the staff, e.g. teachers, secretaries, canteen workers, etc., were also given the opportunity to attend for radiological examination at the three centres used by the Unit, namely Huntingdon, Fletton and Ramsey. Transport was provided by the Education Committee to bring to these centres children and staff from outlying schools.

Those X-rayed, including pupils and school staff, numbered 2,719 and as a result two children (one boy and one girl) were discovered to be suffering from extensive adult tuberculous lesions necessitating immediate treatment. Both were admitted to sanatorium almost immediately. The girl had come to reside in this County only a few weeks prior to the examination being undertaken. Other cases were referred to the Chest Clinics for observation on account of enlarged hilar shadows suggestive of primary tuberculous adenitis.

In addition 67 children were referred to their family doctor for further examination on account of other abnormalities.

The following tables give details of this survey at the three centres.

HUNTINGDON

	Male	Female	Total
No. attended (including Staff) ..	452	474	926
No. recalled for large film ..	40	43	83
+ 2 staff		5 staff	7 staff
Defaulters for large films ..	1	2	3
No. passed on miniature and large films	442	461	903
<i>Tuberculous Conditions—</i>			
Healed calcified lesions requiring no further action	4	6	10
Previously diagnosed and already under supervision	—	1	1
Newly discovered significant lesions requiring			
(a) treatment	—	1	1
(b) further observation ..	2	5	7
Doubtful hilar shadows requiring further observation, Mantoux testing, etc.	3	2	5

RAMSEY

	Male	Female	Total
No. attended (including staff) ..	396	501	897
No. recalled for large films .. +	35	34 4 staff	69 4 staff
Defaulters for large films.. ..	—	1	1
No. passed on miniature and large films	384	490	874
<i>Tuberculous Conditions</i>			
Healed calcified lesions requiring no further action	2	7	9
Previously diagnosed	1	1	2
Newly discovered significant lesions requiring			
(a) treatment ..	—	—	—
(b) observation ..	1	1	2

FLETTON

	Male	Female	Total
No. attended (including Staff) ..	426	470	896
No. recalled for large films .. +	47	57 2 staff	104 2 staff
Defaulters for large films.. ..	—	—	—
No. passed on miniature and large films	410	457	867
<i>Tuberculous Conditions—</i>			
Healed calcified lesions requiring no further action	10	8	18
Previously diagnosed	1	—	1
Newly discovered significant lesions requiring			
(a) treatment ..	1	—	1
(b) further observa- tion at Chest Clinic	5	4	9
Doubtful hilar or other shadows requiring observation at Chest Clinic	6	5	11

The extensive commitments of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit precluded further Surveys in the southern part of the County.

Loan Depots

The arrangements whereby each District Nurse-Midwife has a loan cupboard, the contents of which she may issue at her discretion, remains unchanged.

In addition the British Red Cross Society have Loan Depots where patients may obtain nursing equipment and apparatus either on loan or on hire at nominal charges. These Depots are situated at the following places: Huntingdon, Godmanchester, St. Ives, Ramsey, Kimbolton, Water Newton, Elton, Orton Waterville, Yaxley, Old Fletton, Brampton, Abbots Ripton and St. Neots.

Health Education

The Central Council for Health Education continues to issue instructive and appealing posters and pamphlets. The posters are used throughout the County notably in Infant Welfare Centres and Schools; pamphlets are distributed amongst the parents attending the Infant Welfare Centres.

The necessity for health education is still very evident, and while visual methods of imparting this knowledge, i.e. by the display of posters and pamphlets, is effective to some extent, by far the most important instruction in this subject is undertaken in the homes, in the schools and in the Infant Welfare Centres. It is the personal contact that is of vital importance in this great and needful drive.

While formal lectures on health matters have their place in health education, it is usually found that much more knowledge on these matters is assimilated when advice is given in response to questions from a parent in respect of her own child.

The best lesson of all is to be found in the Day Nursery, Nursery School or Residential Nursery, where the principles of health education are instilled in the earliest years.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE (Section 29)

The administrative arrangements for this service remain unchanged.

During the year the demand on the service increased and the volume of work undertaken was considerably higher than in the previous year.

The number of domestic helps available for part-time service has increased but their distribution over the County is very uneven.

This, together with the fact that the demand for assistance is irregular, makes the provision of first-class supervision and administration imperative if an efficient and economical service is to be provided.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year :—

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	105
(b) Tuberculosis	... ..	8
(c) Others	... ..	374

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was comparatively light and although Measles was still the most prevalent infectious disease during the year the incidence was only fifty per cent. of that for the previous year. Whooping Cough, on the other hand, showed a slightly increased incidence and the number of cases notified suffering from this disease almost equalled the number of cases of Measles.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

The new regulations—Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951—became operative on the 1st August, 1951. They continued the effect of the previous regulations making Puerperal Pyrexia a notifiable disease with slight modifications including a revised definition of Puerperal Pyrexia. It is now necessary to notify as a case of Puerperal Pyrexia any case in which a woman has pyrexia with a temperature of 100.4 deg. F. or more within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage. Undoubtedly these new regulations are responsible for the increase of notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia which occurred during the year.

It is gratifying to be able to report that for the fourth successive year no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the County.

During the course of the year two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified—one of a male child of eighteen months and the second a school boy of thirteen years. The usual detailed enquiries were made in both these cases and the results forwarded to the Medical Research Council.

For yet another year no cases of Smallpox, Cerebro-Spinal Fever or Typhoid were notified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY

for the year ended 31st December, 1951

District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Poliomylitis	Total
URBAN—															
Godmanchester	—	—	42	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	10	44	30	—	130
Huntingdon	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	37	19	—	84
Old Fletton	—	—	52	—	2	4	—	4	—	—	3	—	7	—	72
Ramsey	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	5	—	29
St. Neots	—	—	45	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	36	—	89
St. Ives	—	—	2	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	1	58
RURAL—															
Huntingdon	—	—	48	—	1	4	—	1	—	—	4	45	26	—	129
Norman Cross	—	—	6	—	1	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	17
St. Ives	—	—	67	—	3	2	—	—	—	1	16	—	40	1	130
St. Neots	—	—	20	—	1	8	—	8	—	1	5	—	130	—	173
TOTAL	—	—	312	—	11	39	—	14	1	2	63	126	341	2	911

VENEREAL DISEASES

Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres

	Cambridge		Peterborough	
	1951	1950	1951	1950
Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from—				
Syphilis	4	6	2	9
Gonorrhoea	—	2	2	3
Conditions other than Venereal ...	9	10	19	23
TOTAL ...	13	18	23	35

MENTAL HEALTH (Section 51)

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38

The total number of persons ascertained as mental defectives was 10 (5 male and 5 female). Of this number 4 (2 male and 2 female) were reported under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

5 Cases were admitted to Certified Institutions by Order and at the end of the year there were 10 cases awaiting vacancies in Certified Institutions.

Supervision of cases on Licence from Institutions and cases under Statutory Supervision was carried out by the Mental Health Worker and the following are the number of visits paid to these patients :—

To cases on Licence	50
To cases under Statutory Supervision ...	915

At the end of the year there were 11 male and 14 female defectives receiving training at home.

	During 1951				Total as at 1st January, 1952			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Particulars of cases reported during 1951								
(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944) :—								
(i) Under Section 57(3) ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Under Section 57(5) :—								
On leaving special schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On leaving ordinary schools	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Cases referred by the police or by the Courts under Section 8(1)(a) (or as a result of other action by the Courts)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other defectives reported during 1951 :—								
(i) found “subject to be dealt with”	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
(ii) not at present “subject to be dealt with”	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total number of cases reported during the year	4	3	1	2	—	—	—	—
2. Disposal of cases								
(a) those found “subject to be dealt with” —								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	3	3	—	2	13	10	20	18
(ii) Placed under Guardianship*	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
(iii) Taken to “Places of Safety”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Institutions..	—	—	—	—	8	2	21	20
(v) Died or removed from area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(vi) Action not yet taken ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
(b) those not at present “subject to be dealt with”								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	1
(ii) Later found not to be defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Died or removed from area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Action unnecessary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(v) Action not yet taken ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of item 2	4	3	1	2	23	12	47	46

* Please state here the number of the defectives under Guardianship on 1st January, 1952 who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9 :—

3. Classification of defectives in the Community on 1.1.52

(a) Cases included in item 2(a)(i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care :—

(1) In urgent need of institutional care :—

(i) cot and chair cases . . .

(ii) ambulant low grade cases

(iii) medium grade cases . .

(iv) high grade cases . .

(2) Not in urgent need of institutional care :—

(i) cot and chair cases . .

(ii) ambulant low grade cases

(iii) medium grade cases . .

(iv) high grade cases . .

Total of item 3 (a)

During 1951				Total as at 1st January, 1952			
Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	6	2	1	1

(b) Of the cases included in item 3(a), number in need of institutional care *only* because of poor environment :—

(i) medium grade cases . .

(ii) high grade cases

Total of item 3(b) ..

[illegible]

3. *Classification of defectives in the Community on 1.1.52. (continued)*

(c) Of the cases included in items 2(a)(i) and (ii) and 2(b)(i) overleaf, number considered suitable for :—

(i) occupation centre —
(ii) industrial centre —
(iii) home training 8

Total of item 3(c) ..

(d) *Number of cases receiving training on 1.1.52 :—*

(i) in occupation centre —
(ii) in industrial centre —
(iii) at home 8

Total of item 3(d) ..

Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.
—	2	6	6
—	—	—	4
8	4	3	2
8	6	9	12
—	—	—	5
—	—	—	—
8	4	3	5
8	4	3	10

4. **Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1951, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1951.**

	Males	Females	Total
(a) Ceased to be under care	—	—	—
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	1	2	3
TOTAL	1	2	3

5. **Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.**

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1951

Nil

Male

Females

(b) Number who have married during 1951

—

—

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts

The following summaries set out the work undertaken under this head during the year.

Cambridgeshire Mental Hospital, Fulbourn

No. of Certified patients admitted ...	...	...	...	34
No. of Certified patients discharged ...	...	...	...	33
No. of Voluntary patients admitted ...	...	...	...	48
No. of Voluntary patients discharged ...	...	...	...	47

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey

No. of Certified patients discharged	3
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Norwich Mental Hospital, Norwich

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Napsbury Mental Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.

No. of Certified patients admitted	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs.

No. of Voluntary patients admitted ...	...	...	...	5
No. of Voluntary patients discharged ...	...	...	...	2

Surrey Mental Hospital, Cane Hill, Coulsden.

No. of Certified patients admitted	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1951

			Males	Females	Total
Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge	...	...	62	82	144
Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey	...	...	8	6	14
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	...	...	—	1	1
Derby County Hospital, Mickleover	...	...	—	1	1
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay	...	...	—	1	1
Friern Hospital, New Southgate	...	...	—	1	1
Springfield Hospital, London	...	...	1	—	1
Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford	...	...	—	2	2
Norwich Hospital, Norwich	...	...	1	—	1
Surrey Hospital, Cane Hill, Coulsden	...	...	1	—	1
Napsbury Mental Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	—	1	1
			73	95	168

GENERAL SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY

Housing

The figures given in the Table below have been obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health and show both the number of new houses erected and also the number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1951.

Sanitary District	New houses by		By Adaptation	
	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
URBAN DISTRICTS—				
Huntingdon Borough ...	39	—	2	—
St. Ives Borough ...	15	1	—	—
Godmanchester Borough ...	10	2	—	—
Old Fletton ...	39	6	—	—
Ramsey ...	18	2	—	—
St. Neots ...	34	2	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS—				
Huntingdon ...	22	7	3	3
Norman Cross ...	32	4	—	—
St. Ives ...	25	—	—	—
St. Neots ...	25	5	—	2
TOTALS ...	259	29	5	5

Water Supply, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The activities of the various Sanitary Authorities throughout the County in connection with water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal as obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health are summarised as follows :—

<i>District</i>	<i>Water Supply</i>	<i>Sewerage</i>
Huntingdon Urban	Public Supply. The Council have emphasised the urgency of the augmentation of the Town's Supply in accordance with the scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers.	The Council have again pressed their claims for final approval of the joint scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the Boroughs of Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The Ministry of Health Inquiry relating to this Scheme was held in July, 1949.
Huntingdon Rural	The second pumping station is not yet in action. 1952 should show the whole district supplied with piped water.	Sewerage schemes for Brampton and Sawtry are in preparation. The Alconbury and Alconbury Weston scheme is practically complete.
St. Ives Borough	Purchased in bulk from the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	
St. Ives Rural	Main extensions to the Fen Areas of Warboys, Somersham, and Pidley, were commenced in 1951 and small extensions of the existing mains to serve new housing estates and the needs of agriculture were also carried out.	The Council's main drainage scheme for every parish in the district, submitted to the Ministry for approval in January, 1949, was the subject of a Public Inquiry which was held in the Council's Offices on 27th November, 1951. The Council in submitting their proposals outlined the scheme for all the parishes as a long term programme, but stressed the urgency of the particular schemes for the villages of Somersham, Warboys, Houghton, and Wyton with the Hemingfords and Fenstanton. These parishes were selected as those most in need of main drainage, and it is the intention of the Council, subject to the approval of the Ministry, to carry out the proposed schemes in these parishes as a first instalment of the complete scheme.

<i>District</i>	<i>Water Supply</i>	<i>Sewerage</i>
St. Ives Rural— <i>Contd.</i>		<p>Town Planning approval has been obtained for the development of the pumping stations and sewage disposal works which will be required and negotiations for the acquisition of the necessary land have also been completed. Further small sewage disposal plants for the treatment of sewage from the Council's post-war housing estates were in course of erection during 1951. As far as possible sewers have been laid to the depths that will ultimately be required to link up with the main village schemes as and when they are completed.</p>
St. Neots Urban	<p>Work on the new permanent well and pumping station is now completed and additional filtration and chlorination plants have been installed. The yield from the new works is completely satisfactory. The water from this source of supply is much "softer" than original supplies, and the bulk of water now consumed is from this source.</p>	<p>As yet no action has been taken to improve the present sewerage system and the crude effluent continues to flow direct to the river, and a stream adjoining.</p>
St. Neots Rural	<p>The mains extensions in London Lane and Church Lane, Great Paxton, and Brook End, Catworth, were completed during the year.</p>	<p>No progress has been made with regard to the post-war sewerage schemes during the year, except that sites for the works and Pumping Stations have been agreed with the owners of the land and the Authorities concerned. In December, 1951, a Ministry Inquiry was held into the Buckden—Offord Scheme and the result is now awaited. It is hoped that the Ministry Inquiry for the Kimbolton—Great Staughton Scheme will be held early in 1952. The problem of sewage disposal still remains, especially in the larger villages.</p>

<i>District</i>	<i>Water Supply</i>	<i>Sewerage</i>
Old Fletton Urban	The entire District is served by a mains water supply which although of a hard nature is otherwise satisfactory in quality. However, at times when consumption is heavy the pressure of the supply is inadequate and in consequence the Council are considering the question of extra storage and pumping plant.	During the year the Council have endeavoured to proceed with the proposed extension of the Sewerage Works but so far the work has not yet commenced.
Norman Cross Rural	The position with regard to the provision of piped water supply is very good indeed, and there are only a few isolated parts of the district, chiefly in the Fen area, without a supply.	The Sewerage Scheme is making good progress, and it may well be completed before the alterations have been made to the Sewerage Works at Fletton which are necessary before any connection can be made.
Ramsey Urban	Public Supply. Sufficiency and analyses satisfactory.	The position with regard to the provision of a satisfactory Sewerage Scheme becomes more vital year by year, aggravated as it must be by new construction.
Godmanchester Borough	A piped supply is purchased in bulk from Huntingdon Borough Council. This water supply remains satisfactory in quality. The quality was supervised by the producer authority and also samples were taken within the Borough. These were satisfactory. In addition to the main supply there are 116 public or private wells.	Drains and Sewers remain in a grossly defective state and totally inadequate. Crude sewage still flows from sewer outfalls to open dyke which conveys it untreated into the main river.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is a summary of that part of the work under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, undertaken by the Weights and Measures Department.

During the year 375 samples were procured being about six per thousand of the population of the County.

276 of these samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 99, consisting of Milk and Spirits, tested in the office laboratory.

The sampling of foodstuffs is carried out to discover the presence of any adulterant, deleterious matter, or unauthorised preservative, and to ascertain the truth of any statement on a container which is required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1946. This Order provides that, with certain exceptions, pre-packed food shall bear a label stating the ingredients of which it is composed. It is to be hoped that the purchasing public is, by now, aware of the protection given to them by this Order and that they make a practice of examining the label on the containers.

Milk

During the year the milk supply in this County has again received special attention. 259 samples were taken, 174 of which were submitted to the Public Analyst, and the remainder tested in the office laboratory.

28 samples were found to be below the legal standard for milk fat or solids-not-fat or to contain added water.

Having regard to the fact that 21 of these inferior samples were obtained from three sources, and were in some cases, duplicated, the proportion of 28 inferior samples out of a total of 259 is not so serious as may appear at first sight. In fact, the 28 samples came from 10 suppliers and in five cases the amount of added water or the deficiency in fat was extremely small.

Proceedings were taken in one instance only, where a producer was found selling milk, which was heavily watered, to the Milk Marketing Board. He was convicted and fined.

In all other cases of adulteration or inferiority it was thought that cautions would suffice and these were duly given, either by the Clerk of the Council or the Food and Drugs Inspector.

The proportion of heat-treated milk to that sold "as the cow gave it" has considerably increased, and the producer-retailer is becoming less common. In some of the more thickly populated districts of the County it is impossible for the public to purchase any but pasteurised milk. The quality of this milk is consistently good, so far as solids-not-fat and milk fat are concerned.

Other Foodstuffs

116 samples of various kinds of Food and Drugs were procured, 3 only being certified by the Public Analyst to be "Not Genuine."

Sausages.—9 samples were taken, all of which were found to contain the required percentage of meat.

Spirits and Wine.—24 samples were all Genuine.

Ice Cream.—A standard for Fat, Sugar and Milk-solids-not-fat was made during the year and 14 samples were taken.

One sample was found to be deficient in fat, but contained a high percentage of milk solids. The matter was dealt with by a caution.

Cream.—For a short period during the year the sale of cream was made legal and a standard fixed for the various grades. 10 samples were taken, all of which were Genuine.

One sample each of Saffron and Baking Powder were unsatisfactory, and the sellers were cautioned.

Prosecutions

Proceedings were taken in two cases only, one being the before-mentioned case of watered milk sold by a producer to the Milk Marketing Board, and the other where a confectioner sold a cake to a purchaser which contained a rubber finger stall. He too, was prosecuted and fined.

Details of the samples taken are given in the table below :

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Genuine</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>		<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	
Milk	259	196	35	231	28		28
Butter	7	7		7			
Spirits	21	7	14	21			
Salad Cream ...	2	1	1	2			
Sausages	9	9		9			
Ice Cream	14	11	2	13	1		1
Baking Powder	1				1		1
Mincemeat	2	2		2			
Wines	3	2	1	3			
Pepper & Pepper Flavoured							
Condiments	8	3	5	8			
Vinegar	5	3	2	5			
Jelly Crystals ...	4	1	3	4			
Coffee & Essence	2	2		2			
Ground Almonds and Paste	3	3		3			
Cream	10	10		10			
Self Raising Flour	3	3		3			
Soft Drinks	3	3		3			
Drugs	4	3	1	4			
Other Foodstuffs	15	8	6	14		1	1
TOTAL ...	375	274	70	344	30	1	31

The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and the Food and Drugs Act by Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S.

Samples of milk numbering twenty-eight have been taken from the Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Plants for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests. These samples satisfactorily conformed to the standard laid down by the Ministry. An inspection of the plant and thermometers used has been carried out.

One hundred and three samples of milk, tuberculin tested, pasteurised and ungraded, have been collected from that supplied to Schools throughout the County, for bacteriological examination and keeping qualities, at the Pathological Department of the Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital.

Eighty-one visits have been made to Schools and the food and meals inspected. No complaints have been received regarding the meals cooked at the Schools, or meals supplied in containers from other Schools.

Inspection of premises which are registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream has been carried out, and seven registrations have been granted during the year.

Periodic inspection of Shops, Food Stores, Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels have been carried out in that part of the County where the Food and Drugs Acts were operated by the County Council. Where conditions required improvements these have been brought to the notice of the owners.

Thirty-one bulk samples of ungraded milk, which have not been submitted to Heat Treatment, have been taken under Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, for Biological examination. All tests were found to be negative of Tubercle Bacilli. One sample showed the presence of *Brucella Abortus* which was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The under-mentioned Meat and Canned Foods have been found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption :—

- 22 cans Corned Beef (various sizes).
- 164 „ Meat (various kinds and sizes).
- 25 „ Soup (various kinds).
- 134 „ Vegetables (various kinds and sizes).
- 285 „ Fruit do.
- 21 „ Fish do.
- 344 „ Milk (evaporated and condensed).
- 10 „ Jam, etc.
- 1 „ Biscuits.
- 3 „ Sausages.
- 54 „ Ham and 12 lbs. canned Ham.
- 3 lbs. Roast Chicken.
- 25 lbs. Beef, Home killed.
- 198 lbs. Carcase Pork.
- 112 lbs. 12 ozs. Carcase Meat.
- 100 lbs. Pigs Feet (trotters).
- 113 lbs. Bacon.
- 23 lbs. Sausages.
- 12 lbs. Kidney Fat.
- 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese (Gorgonzola).
- 21 lbs. Cheese and 5 boxes Cheese.
- 108 lbs. Butter (56 lbs. advised for manufacture in confectionery only).
- 3 lbs. Sago.
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Chocolate.
- 5 lbs. Chocolate Table Fingers and Coconut.
- 70 Jam Rolls and Sponges.
- 3 bottles Lemon and Orange Squash.
- 27 jars Pickles and Relish.
- 1 jar Kipper paste.
- 2 tins Ovaltine tablets.
- 1 tin Golden Syrup.
- 16 tins Assorted Foods.

The Bye-Laws for the Handling and Sale of Food are being complied with. The storage of food is not suitable in all cases as some buildings have been erected for a great number of years and being old buildings require much repair, but this is gradually being undertaken by those concerned.

St. Ives Slaughter House

The situation of the abattoir is definitely unsatisfactory, being overlooked by small houses on both sides and a school immediately opposite. Offensive odours must arise, particularly on one side, which must be objectionable to nearby inhabitants.

The accommodation for cattle, sheep and pigs is very poor indeed. The storage space for the hanging of carcasses is insufficient to deal with the number of animals slaughtered. There is no method of cooling or refrigeration.

The number of casualties dealt with is out of proportion to the number of healthy animals. All casualties should be dealt with in separate premises until a suitable abattoir is available. There are private slaughterhouses in the area which could be utilised.

It is my opinion that this slaughterhouse is entirely unsuited to deal with the number of animals sent for slaughter. The floors are very slippery and falls by both slaughtermen and cattle are not infrequent. The drainage is very primitive and in heavy rain a mixture of sanguineous water is liable to collect outside the abattoir.

The routine inspections for *Cysticercus Bovis* were continued during the year and six cases were confirmed. The cysts were confined to the masseter muscles, and the carcasses, all of which were of good quality, were released for sale after twenty-one days in cold storage.

The number of animals killed at St. Ives Abattoir during the year was 5,597, of which 63 whole carcasses (weight 15,698 lbs.) were condemned as unfit for human food. The weight of the parts of carcasses and organs condemned was 17,622 lbs.

The following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year :—

					<i>Cattle including Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	...	...	...	1234	240	2180	1943
Number inspected	...	...	...	1234	240	2180	1943

(All diseases except tuberculosis):

Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	8	2	33
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	326	9	86	378
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	26.90%	7.08%	4.03%	21.15%

(Tuberculosis only):

Whole carcasses condemned ...	12	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	173	—	—	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	14.99%	—	—	2.67%

Weights of Condemned Meat

			<i>Condemnations</i>				
			<i>Number killed</i>	<i>Number of whole carcases</i>	<i>Weight of whole carcases lb.</i>	<i>Weight of Parts and Organs lb.</i>	<i>Total weight lb.</i>
Cattle	...	...	1234	18	10469	13699	24168
Calves	...	...	240	8	459	29	488
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	2180	2	79	268	347
Pigs	...	...	1943	35	4691	3623	8317
Total			5597	63	15698	17622	33320

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 WELFARE SERVICES

The Chief Welfare Officer has kindly supplied me with the following information.

Residential Accommodation

The third small residential Home for Old People was opened in June, 1951. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. W. Brown, wife of the Chairman of the County Council.

The building of yet a further Home at Stanground to be known as Coneygree Lodge was commenced in August. Good progress has been made and it is hoped that it will be ready for occupation early in 1953.

As these new Homes have been opened old people have been transferred from White House, Eaton Socon, and Walnut Tree House, Huntingdon. The main result of this was that the accommodation at Walnut Tree House became sufficient to meet all additional requirements.

The East Anglian Regional Hospital Board were accordingly notified that the White House would be no longer required by the Council as Part III accommodation. The Hospital Board replied to the effect that they did not propose to keep the building for use as a hospital and the Welfare Committee therefore decided to close the premises on the 31st March, 1952.

The following figures indicate the number of persons housed in accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act on the 31st December, 1951.

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
Walnut Tree House, Huntingdon ...	32	25	57
White House, Eaton Socon ...	23	10	33
"The Chestnuts," Godmanchester ...	12	15	27
"Shortsands," St. Neots ...	11	13	24
"Rheola," St. Ives ...	10	10	20

Reception Centre, Walnut Tree House

Wayfarers continued to be admitted to Walnut Tree House and the following table gives the number of wayfarers accommodated during the period 1st January, 1951, to 31st December, 1951 :—

					<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	...	...	...	...	209	3	212
February	...	...	...	...	190	11	201
March	...	...	...	...	210	6	216
April	...	...	...	...	196	3	199
May	...	...	...	...	216	8	224
June	...	...	...	...	206	8	214
July	...	...	...	...	192	3	195
August	...	...	...	...	222	2	224
September	...	...	...	...	210	4	214
October	...	...	...	...	216	4	220
November	...	...	...	...	194	2	196
December	...	...	...	...	183	5	188
					<hr/>		
					2444	59	2503
					<hr/>		

Welfare of Old People in their Own Homes

The County Old People's Welfare Committee's activities during the year were connected with the establishment of old people's clubs and the system of regular voluntary visiting of old people in their homes.

Handicapped Persons

Under the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council have submitted schemes for the Welfare of Deaf and Dumb Persons and also for persons substantially or permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity.

The Chief Welfare Officer is collecting information from the various Government departments and voluntary organisations with a view to ascertaining the number of persons who are likely to require assistance under these schemes.

Blind Welfare

The Hunts. Society for the Blind in their capacity as agents for the County Council have continued their activities in connection with the welfare of the blind. A revised scheme for the employment at home of blind workers has been approved and there has been increased production and sales of goods during the year.

26 FEB 1953